



# Sabalist Manifesto

## **Preamble:**

**Our nation is under attack from within. Our rights, liberties, and protections under the law are being eroded day by day, minute by minute, action by action. Our history is rewritten before our eyes, and we are told it has always been. We are told to hate, to disenfranchise, to attack, to give no mind to those who are different. The very soul of our nation is being poisoned by hate, by authoritarianism, by malice. It is not the American way, it is not who we are. We are America. We are the worker, the small business owner, and the farmer. We are old, young, native, and immigrant. We are proud of our country, but acknowledge our history. We will right the wrongs of the past and look forward to a better future for all Americans.**

**We commit ourselves to the defense of the civil liberties and rights of all Americans no matter their background. We are Civic Nationalists, we are Liberals, we are Environmentalists, we are Americans, we are Sabalism. We will fight to make America a Greater Nation.**

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# **Core Ideals of Sabalism**

# Chapter One: Restoring Our Nation

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Polarization has led to the worst political catastrophe our nation has ever endured. We have seen our citizens ripped from their families and sent to a foreign prison. We have seen attempted coups. We have seen the resurgence of far-right groups. We have seen our cities in flames. The hate propagated by those in power has divided us more than any other issue in recent history. We are told that those who think and believe differently from us are evil. We are told that those who look different or speak a different language are evil. We are told that those in power deserve dictatorial powers. All of these things are distinctly un-American. The pillars of our nation are being eroded before our eyes for the sake of power and wealth.

Since the birth of America, we have uplifted not only ourselves but our communities. We have endured hardships together as a nation, reckoned with our history as a nation, and grown better as a nation. Reactionary regressive forces have pushed harder and harder to divide and conquer our minds to ensure a hate-filled, obedient mob enforces the will of their elite. The very idea of what it means to be American has been changed by their narrative to fit this idea of national hate and reverence for their messiah.

The establishment of a cult of personality around the leader of this reactionary, regressive movement mirrors twentieth-century dictators to such a degree that we can no longer afford to ignore or deny the similarities. We must, as we always have, firmly and forcefully deny authoritarianism and root it out in all aspects of our government and society. A tolerant society can not exist when it allows for intolerance, democratic institutions can not thrive when undermined by authoritarian poisons.

It is the moral duty of all Americans, all Sabalists to reject authoritarianism within all legal means, until all legal means are exhausted or stripped from us, as is the way of authoritarians. The dream America promises is not dead if we keep it in our hearts, it has atrophied and decayed, but is not dead. It is the duty of all Americans to ensure its revival for a Greater Nation and better future.

## Rebuilding American Identity

What it means to be American has changed over our two-hundred-year history, and what it means to be American matters now more than ever. We are a civic nation, not an ethnic one, so being American does not hinge on blood or race. The Constitution is an atheist document, so we are not a country based on religion. America is based on institutions and shared communities. Being American means believing in and participating in those very institutions, and being a member of the wider American community, partaking in our nation's very being.

Our Identity as a nation has been hijacked by authoritarians and reactionaries wishing to redefine us as a regressive and hateful people. Their actions have ensured America's isolation internationally, our adversaries now filling the void diplomatically and economically we have left. Once seen as the 'shining city on a hill,' defending freedom, liberty, and democracy, we are now the very backsliding people we sought to liberate from tyranny. We are not doomed to this fate, our institutions are failing, but not dead.

While our institutions still exist we must ensure their protection and respect as sanctified beacons of what it means to be American, they define us as a people, and when they are under attack as they have been for a decade we must resist.

We are a diverse people encompassing many beliefs, religions, and backgrounds. To say one group is more American than another because of how they express being American is ultimately and completely un-American. We are founded on the rejection of authoritarian rule as a mix of peoples believing in democratic institutions despite other differences in belief and background. The very founders themselves are a diverse group encompassing the demographics of their time. We must not allow these facts to go forgotten.

America is a great nation, an expansive people, and undeniably the most powerful and consequential nation in modern history. We must not allow ourselves to fall victim to the same catastrophes that have brought our predecessors to their knees, before their complete eradication.

## Ensuring our Democratic Republic

The largest flaws in our system, ensuring undemocratic exceptions within our nation, are the very voting methods we use to elect our officials.

First-past-the-post voting has been historically proven time and time again to result in two similar political blocs dominating the stage, which ultimately leads to voter apathy and a lack of participation. America is a nation of political participation much like its symbolic predecessor, we must not allow policies that restrict or discourage that participation to endure.

The Electoral College, while vital in its time, has become a council of undemocratic kingmakers. A voting system wherein the loser may win is entirely unacceptable. A National Popular Vote with an alternative method to first-past-the-post such as a two round approval vote system would ensure the most preferred candidate always wins, and eliminates the spoiler effect that cements the two-party system we have endured for over two hundred years.

The House of Representatives ultimately fails at being truly representative of the national opinion on who ought to lead the legislative body. Districts are prone to gerrymandering, which decreases competitiveness and ensures one party dominates the district, erasing any competitiveness that increases participation. Two alternatives to this problem are either statewide approval voting for representatives or a national party-list proportional system.

Statewide approval voting for representatives would ensure regional representation within the House remains, while still sacrificing some degree of perfect proportionality nationally. This system would ensure that every citizen of a state has an elected representative who speaks for them, unlike the current system, where up to half of the district population goes without a voice. This would raise participation in every House election nationwide, with votes truly mattering as to who will win, not the top seat, but the secondary seats to ensure all voices are heard.

Party-list proportional would ensure a near-perfect reflection of national opinion within the House of Representatives, reserving the Senate to fill in for more state-based representation. Parties would be allotted seats directly proportional to the percentage of the national vote they receive in any given election. Though district-based representation remains popular within America, the flaws of such systems can not be denied. Despite this, it is a clear alternative to the currently ineffective system that fails at being representative of the people.

The best alternative to a lack of adequate representation both personally and nationally is a blend of statewide approval voting and party-list proportional representation to supplement any national skews away from the true proportions of public opinion. This method has been used in countless European Countries to ensure both local opinion and national results mirror reality, solving both issues beautifully with little change to their systems. This can not easily be implemented in America due to the requirement of Constitutional amendments, but no clear path forward with the current systems that do not lead to democratic backsliding exists.

The presidential appointment of Supreme Court Justices ensures only that the one body in our government that is designed to be immune to the vices of politics has political goals woven into its very core. While there is no alternative completely free of political infestation, electing Supreme Court Justices nationally from a pool of career federal judges running for the offices is a considerably better alternative. The current system allows politically charged appointments that have ultimately resulted in the degradation of American freedoms and rights, and some alternatives must be found to prevent further erosion.

It has been made clear that the highest Executive Office in America is fully capable of ignoring the rulings of the Courts. This fundamental flaw within our system must be rooted out. The Courts must be empowered to hold the Executive accountable to their rulings, this must be coupled with a legislative check on the judiciary to prevent further abuses from taking place on any side. The checks and balances that are not respected must be reinforced and expanded to ensure corruption and erosion are eradicated.

The sanctity of our Constitution must be renewed and reinforced by a Constitutional Court, or consequences for violated oaths of office, such as warranted removal from office or automatic impeachment if a violation has been found. The oaths and affirmations made to the Constitution have been shown to have been made faithlessly, and with mental reservations, both nullifying the very oaths made.

Our founding documents, the very pillars of America, are being eroded and forgotten by those who seek to abuse and control. There is still time to repair the damage, to ensure our democracy can endure another two centuries, but only if every American takes the call, does the American duty of defending liberty, freedom, and expression. Our republic is founded on these principles, expression is dying, liberty is decaying, and freedom is rusting away. It is the

American duty to stand and fight against these existential threats that wish to annihilate the American identity, the American democracy. It is not too late. Our documents are living, and adaptation is the American way, we must adapt or be swept away in the tide of history.

## **Enabling Pluralism**

Over America's history it has been dominated by several different party systems, the most notable aspect of these historical party systems is that they are nearly all exclusively two-party systems. This political reality has ensured that over America's two-century history, polarization can only continue to grow and corrupt the minds of Americans.

Lowering barriers for the formation of political movements and parties will allow the true beliefs of the people to be better represented within our government. Multi-party systems consistently have proven to be healthier, democratic systems. Reforming the internal structures of the Senate and House to allow for third or fourth parties to participate in the institutions if seats are gained will ensure that no voice, no matter how small, is silenced by the mob.

Similar policies can be enacted on the state level to increase participation at all levels of government, ensuring no states are left monolithic single party dictatorships. If any level of government breeds apathy or rejects participation the rot can continue to grow to a national problem. Those who reject participation and political involvement, despite intentions, ultimately encourage those very undemocratic systems and ideals that have grown as a cancer in our republic.

Healthy political systems require those involved to maintain the sanctity of those systems. If allowed, those who wish to erode protections and gain unchecked power have free rein to do so. We have now seen firsthand what the erosion of healthy political systems looks like, we know those who wish to gain such unchecked power. It is the duty of every American who loves our republic, our democracy, to vote, to act, to participate. The values and beliefs of all Americans must be heard.



## Incentivized Voting

Voter apathy is one of the largest driving forces of our nation's decay. Without incentive many will simply refuse to participate in elections, uncaring of outcome. A voter's tax break or other incentive like mandatory paid day off work for voting days can ensure that people are willing and even encouraged to participate in American systems, fulfilling their civic duty.

While many simply state their wishes for Americans to 'go out and vote.' A call to action can only achieve so much when there are barriers in place to prevent voting for millions. We can not claim to be a nation of frequent fair elections when we do not incentivize voting, and do not eliminate the very real barriers many have to voting, which ultimately makes the system unfair. Millions who work, or have events happen in their lives, are unable to vote when the time comes, or who don't personally believe they have enough reason to vote, must be encouraged and have any barriers removed for our system to truly flourish.

Empty statements begging for votes will not fix the issue of voter apathy, incentives, duty, and the existential threat of authoritarianism will. We can no longer afford to sit idly by as our nation falls victim to the same cancers that our predecessors did. Participation and an informed, active, involved electorate are the only way we can remedy the issues at hand. Millions do not know of the threats we face, millions more are victims of the propaganda the authoritarians propagate. The media has been deliberately discredited as 'fake news' to ensure their voters ignore, deny, and burn any evidence of wrongdoing. Restoring faith in reporting, giving reason to vote, and removing the rot at the core are our civic duty to prevent totalitarianism.

Reclaiming media trust is vital to a healthy electorate. If citizens do not trust what they read or watch, they go to the booth uninformed of political realities. Millions have fallen victim to the authoritarian propaganda machine to no fault of their own. Reclaiming the trust of American voters is not an easy task after the poison of media distrust has been injected. Neutral sources must be encouraged, where partisan ones have been slandered into the ground, rightfully for propagating the very issue at hand. The state must play as little role as possible in the media, only ensuring the truth is expressed, or it will ultimately succumb to self-interest, and the threat of authoritarianism will inevitably creep back in.

## Chapter Two: Building a Greater Nation

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The soul of our country has been eroded by years of neglect, fearmongering, and hate. The propagation of hate is the most existential threat to America we have ever faced. It threatens to tear our nation apart by turning everyday Americans against one another. It incites violence and ensures that normal Americans pay little attention to the hardships they endure daily. The Greater Nation programs seek to remedy the issues at hand.

### Housing First

The homeless crisis that grips our nation is blamed on the victims, those who have worked and struggled for everything they have, but are trampled on and told they are a burden on society. Our economy suffers from a lack of empathy, from a lack of moral obligation to all Americans, no matter their standing in life. It is not a moral failing to be homeless, it is a tragedy that too many suffer through.

Many homes sit empty while the number of homeless continue to rise, the purchase of vacant homes, and construction of new ones in and near existing communities for the homeless can easily ensure the worst affected areas are helped, requiring those who receive housing to gain and maintain employment not only ensures that the housing does not go to the uncaring or unwilling, but supports economic growth in affected areas. It has been proven that the biggest hurdle to cross for many job seekers is housing, providing housing opens work opportunities for those who suffer from this disadvantage. Ensuring all Americans are housed and working will not only benefit the less fortunate but all Americans.

Project style or even the occasional brutalist style housing units must be avoided and dismantled. Housing under a Housing First system should reflect an individual's desire to better their lives. Individual, stand-alone units sufficient for a small family, constructed or bought in and around existing communities and housing developments, ensure there is no loss of dignity in bettering one's life. If economically viable ownership of such housing units should be transferred to the occupant after a set time, reducing the threat of a government-caused housing market bloat and removing the need to move, taking less risk in self-betterment for the formerly homeless.

To fully eradicate homelessness, we must ensure that every American has the ability to work, to better their lives and their communities. Those who are willing to better their lives can not be put down and denied entry, they must be aided for the betterment of all Americans. The effort relies on all Americans to ensure we prosper as a nation and are economically secure. Individual issues and hardships balloon into community, state, and then national hardships. We must extinguish the fire before it consumes the nation.

Being self-reliant does not mean being alone, and owing nothing to one's community does not mean apathy or even malice. It is our duty to uplift all Americans who are on their knees to stand alongside us, it is the American way. Allowing issues such as homelessness to endure only exacerbates them, and it is ultimately in one's self-interest to aid each other. Cooperation within communities ensures everyone benefits.

## **Monetary Floor**

Many Americans live paycheck to paycheck, unable to improve their lives beyond basic needs for themselves and their families. Even yet, most American homes require multiple income sources to maintain, this is a far fall from the days of single-income homes, now taking a minimum of two for basic needs. Ensuring that every American receives what they need to survive is a moral obligation. Families go hungry despite more effort than ever before. It is no failing on the worker, no failing on the breadwinner. We have allowed the gradual increase of the cost of living without the increase of pay, and millions suffer as a result. A solution to this is a monetary floor for all Americans, a universal basic income to supplement wages. Ensuring Americans can afford to feed their families is not a handout, it is a necessity.

A monetary floor would not only ensure Americans can afford to live when supplementing their normal income, but would also force the circulation of wealth in times of economic decline, ensuring the economy continues to function and businesses continue to generate income. It would soften the blow of economic hardships the nation may face by ensuring consumers can still purchase, and businesses can still sell. This Universal Basic Income must automatically scale with the change of purchasing power of the Dollar, or it will inevitably be neglected and become irrelevant to its purpose in aiding American lives.

Ensuring a scaling Universal Basic Income would make recessions less devastating for everyone, ensuring that national tragedies that are no fault of the American people do not adversely affect them. It eliminates the need for price controls and drastic economic-monetary policy changes when disaster comes. Everyday Americans would no longer need to fear where their next meal comes from. No handout ensures that the nation maintains its economic security, No handout ensures full bellies without threatening government control of the economy.

Preventing needless government intervention in the economy while simultaneously solving a core economic problem within the nation is vital to ensuring our continued economic recovery. It has been historically proven that drastic and far-reaching interventions and controls have done more damage than good, with the exception of FDR's New Deal programs, which continue to aid Americans despite modern bloat and ineffectiveness. These programs must be altered or replaced to help a modern nation continue its growth after repeated economic hardship. A Universal Basic Income can be a solution to this issue that helps all Americans be more self-sufficient.

## **Renewing Veteran Respect**

The biggest broken promise our nation has ever given to us is the reverence for veterans, that service is respected and rewarded. The men and women we send off to suffer and die in battle do not come home to an open-armed welcome, they return to a cold, uncaring, and even malicious populace. Veterans make up one of the largest groups of the homeless in our nation, as well as one of the largest groups of mental health cases in the nation. We can not discard and abandon the men and women of our nation who sacrificed themselves for our liberties that millions take for granted.

We can not be a nation of individuals who stand on self-sufficiency when we do not allow even those who fought to defend this nation to stand on their own, instead leaving them to suffer in silence. Programs alone will not aid in the deep societal damages that have been made against veterans. We must, as a nation, bring honor and dignity to those who have sacrificed years of their lives, minds, and souls for this nation, be the comfort and support they not only yearn for but require. It is a moral obligation of all Americans to support those who have ensured our freedom abroad, so that they may come home to a country that truly and earnestly respects and honors their sacrifices, and will aid them in their journey forward into societal reintegration.

Disability, mental health, and economic support for veterans is a moral obligation of our nation. Ensuring that they can stand on their own feet and prosper in the nation they sacrificed themselves for will not undo the harm already done, but is a step towards repaying the national debt we owe to our veterans. Society itself must accept those who have fought and returned injured, both physically and mentally. The toll of war breaks people down and leaves them scarred for life, We can not abandon those who gave their minds for us, we are obligated to help.

Empty charity leaves many veterans feeling coddled or even isolated, It is no honor to be coddled. Real support, and real fulfilling work and lives, returning with dignity to live a dignified life, is something that is owed to those who have fought to preserve the promises America gave. We must ensure the promises made to our veterans are upheld, that dignity and duty go hand in hand for every American. Empty promises, dismissive coddling, and blatant unappreciativeness have destroyed not only the national perception of veterans but the veterans' perception of themselves. We must do better, we must ensure sacrifice is honored.

## **Environmental Revitalization**

What is seen as a distant issue for future generations is quickly becoming a reality for the majority of the world. The environment we live in is quickly and almost irreparably degrading due to our own actions. People, corporations, and the governments themselves must be held accountable for the actions we have taken that damage our world. We can not allow the rhetoric of planet colonization to allow for the destruction of our home. What we do today affects the entirety of humanity, not just our nation. It is the world's moral, ethical, and demanded obligation to slow, stop, and reverse human-caused climate change.

The expansion of National Parks and environmental reserves, further protecting the species that live within our nation, and harsher punishments for environmental destruction, paired with reconstruction and revitalization of our failing landscapes and waterways are necessary to begin slowing the human-caused change. They will not be enough to stop or reverse the damage, but are a demanded and mandatory step along the path of repairing the damage we have done.

Small scale damage must be tackled as fervently as large scale damage. If we ignore the small things, those that don't affect entire ecosystems or areas, we risk allowing them to compound through apathy or ignorance and grow beyond the current scope of harm done to the planet. It is not about tree-hugging or soft love, it is about survival of everyone, about human legacy. Humanity has no legacy if we extinguish ourselves through ignorance or malice.

All must be held accountable for the damage done to our planet, as it endangers not only all of humanity, but everything that calls the world home. It is the duty of every American, every human, to ensure that our world does not die. If we do nothing, or worse, accelerate the damage, we will be conducting the largest genocide in the history of the world, ensuring the eradication of not only human life, but millions of species on earth.

# Chapter Three: Economic Revival

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Neoliberal-Neoconservative economic decay has led to one of the most catastrophic economic disasters America has ever seen. From Reaganomics to the Clinton-Obama era regulatory elements, we have seen the mismanagement of our monetary and fiscal policy become an existential threat to America. These issues must be remedied to prevent further polarization and violence. Economic decline and hardship have historically proven to lead to radicalization and societal decline.

Many in power refuse to acknowledge the rot at the core of mainstream economic policy because their policies are considered 'safe' and 'standard,' and guaranteed to win votes. This complacency has ensured only that the deep-rooted issues within the economy grow like a cancer to infest every corner of our market. It is the American duty to not only stop but reverse this complacency to prevent a total economic collapse.

These factors have played one of the largest roles in the collapse of the American political sphere and the rise of extremism. The American people have suffered for decades from economic uncertainty and political apathy due to Neoliberal-Neoconservative economics.

## Breaking the Oligopoly

The forced duality of Capitalism vs. Socialism has utterly destroyed our economic possibilities. Laissez-faire capitalism has destroyed livelihoods, ensured that the wealthy have complete and total control of our economy, and led to decades of wealthlessness for the poor. Inversely, the misguided regulations and controls set on the economy exacerbated the economic issues of the time and ultimately contributed to further economic consolidation for the ultra-wealthy.

History has proven that free markets breed democracy and social mobility under the right circumstances. Regulation does not always mean market restriction, and in many cases, regulation can make a market freer than a fully unregulated one. Ultimately, the free market must be maintained and protected from dangerous and unwarranted interference while disallowing consolidation and uncompetitive practices from destroying the market's



freedom from within.

One of the core issues at hand is the American market's lack of true competition in many fields. With informal trade cartels and handshake deals regarding spheres of control and influence between corporations, and the slow and steady atrophy of the small businesses that once dotted the nation, America has seen competition on a large scale disappear and be replaced with an Oligopoly of mostly aligned corporations.

Bloated regulations restricting these corporations are not the route forward, nor are lessening restrictions and allowing further consolidation from the lens of 'free trade.' Strengthening Antitrust to include oligopolistic control of markets as a restriction of free trade is a prerequisite for improvement, as is further strengthening and encouraging the formation and growth of small businesses. Reducing barriers on the small and ensuring the large can not annihilate the competition are required for a healthy economy.

The more money that circulates within the economy, the more hands a dollar passes through in a year, the healthier that economy is. Miserly activity among businesses and the wealthy slowly decreases the circulation that keeps economies alive, this soft economic attack on the country has, over the decades, condensed into an existential threat to the American Dollar. Regulation will not prevent the systemic hoarding of wealth in America, but deep societal changes on what it means to be wealthy can begin to reverse the rampant degradation of the values of the wealthy. It is the duty of all Americans to uplift, this is no different for the wealthy.

## **Forced Competition**

The complete government control of the economy must be avoided at all costs, as does the complete corporate control of the economy as seen during the Gilded Age. A balance of free business and the requirements of non-restrictive practices, and alternative options in the economy must be struck. If a given sector is controlled by one or several corporations in an oligarchic fashion, the government must provide an alternative until true competition returns.

If government-provided alternatives are established in this way, they must be under the same scrutiny and treatment as any other corporation, favoritism of government-run businesses must be made illegal, or we risk falling into the



same traps as other failed economic theories. Alternatives must not be made to be permanent, but as a transitory entity between monopolistic or oligopolistic markets and true competition. This is an inescapable reality of free market economies.

Government-provided alternatives within the economy can easily become a threat to the very competition that is required in a healthy economy. Just like the government itself has checks and balances, these alternatives must regularly be checked and balanced to ensure the government itself does not control markets and restrict trade. While the majority of these alternatives must be temporary checks against monopolistic or oligopolistic practices, some may require extended existence to ensure fair practices and consumer protection.

Extended alternatives may be required in certain sectors, such as Utilities and Telecommunications. Utility companies regularly do not overlap in zones of control, and the vast majority of areas have no alternative to their sole Utility company. While many Telecommunications companies have similar practices of non-interference between one another. This state of affairs is entirely untenable and must be replaced with a more competitive, free-market solution. Internal market trade restrictions are just as, if not more threatening than government restrictions.

## **Correct Pay, Correct Price**

The disparity between what a job should pay and what it's actually paid is completely unacceptable today. Direct regulation on pay from the bottom up is not a viable solution, as it disallows edge cases and the freedom to promote and reward employees as a business wishes, while the unfair compensation of labor must not be allowed to continue as it is today. Wage guidelines based on position, skill, and labor required are a possible solution to this problem. Rewarding work and position properly while allowing for skill-based variation is vital for a fair but competitive business atmosphere.

Similarly, the disparity between the price that is offered for a product and what the consumer pays is entirely unacceptable. The practice of introducing charges after an offer must be eliminated, and the right of the consumer to know the end price of the product must be protected. We can not allow dishonest business practices to scam consumers into uninformed purchases. The current state of sales and product offers is innately deceitful to consumers

at the profit of the business, and it must be changed to return a balance and trust to the system.

The economy must be an open, honest, competitive, and fair place to conduct business for the employer, employee, and consumer. This relationship must not be allowed to be skewed in favor of one or another. The rights of the employer and business must be protected, the rights of the employee and worker must be protected, and the rights of the consumer must be protected. We can not allow one group to trample on another, otherwise, the economy as a whole will suffer. Businesses must be allowed to conduct themselves without overbearing interference. Workers must not have their right to dignified, fair-paying work trampled on. Consumers must not have their right to be informed of what they are buying and the price it will cost them eradicated by deceit.

## **Reviving Small Business**

The state of small businesses is in dire need of change. The barriers and consumer protections intended for large corporations gatekeep entry into the market for start-ups and small businesses. Exemptions must be made for entry-level entities to ensure that competition on all levels is maintained. A strong small business sector indicates a strong economy, and the revival of this sector will not only benefit the economy, but the American people.

While we must reduce barriers to entry, we must not fall victim to the trap of complete deregulation. Encouraging the creation and expansion of small businesses while continuing to require a standard on quality of products for consumers is vital. A balance must be struck between ease of entry and the standard of products. Better defining what a Small Business is, and establishing clear exemptions for small businesses, while ensuring quality standards are not lax to such a degree that the consumer suffers, are imperative to grow the American Economy.

Establishing a limited-term small business subsidy for materials, employee expansion, and cost of operation to encourage the establishment and expansion can facilitate the growth of the economy on a small scale. This subsidy must only aid in such expansions, and not fully cover the business's expenses. Similar programs may be established for small businesses during economic decline to supplement individual aid for employees to ensure that all levels, Employer, Employee, and Consumer, may weather an economic

downturn.

## National Spending

Neoliberal overspending and debt accumulation have ensured that America's government is wholly unprepared to handle any economic decline or catastrophe that may occur. Neoconservative austerity has ensured that the programs, which are necessary for millions of American lives to continue on, are either cut or defunded to such a degree that all that remains is a bloated corpse. It is clear that neither side of the Duopoly is capable of conducting successful economics when both have contributed to American economic and political decay.

Rules for what must and mustn't be contained in the national budget must be established to prevent such economic policy catastrophes from happening in the future. An overspending budget must receive approval from Two-Thirds of the House and be warranted by a National emergency that requires it. Spending dedicated to in-place programs must be appropriate to cover the cost of said programs with extra to spare, with unspent money going towards either an emergency fund or slush fund for the next year's budget. Mandatory debt payments must be in the budget every year, we can not allow our out-of-control debt to grow even further.

If our debt is ever paid off, a minimum percentage of yearly revenue must go to an emergency fund so that any downturn, deficits, or other unexpected events may be handled promptly, without borrowing or tax hikes. If such an emergency fund were to grow to more than two years of expected revenue, it should be used to pay for yearly expenditures, with tax forgiveness for said year. This would provide much-needed relief to the American taxpayers on the occasions it occurs.

Programs that aid the American people must be maintained or replaced with better alternative programs. It is morally unacceptable to allow our National duty towards all Americans to be undone or ignored. We must uplift each other, or no one stands. While we must defend these programs, we must not allow them to undergo the same decay and atrophy that has ruined many others, bloat kills aid, and we can not allow aid from Americans to Americans to die.

## Chapter Four: Normalizing Continental Relations

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Our neighbors, Mexico and Canada, have been both adversaries and brothers to America throughout its history. Their treatment by America in recent years have not only returned America to an adversarial position to them, but cemented America as an existential threat to them both. We have turned America's largest geopolitical strength, being an ocean away from conflict, to a glaring and undeniable weakness, now being imprisoned between two neighbors who find us to be distasteful at best, and a threat at worst.

### The Southern Border and Immigration

Throughout its history, Mexico has seen the United States in many different ways, from rival to comrade, from brother to undeniable threat. Today, we are perceived as an undeniable threat due to the rampant xenophobia propagated by authoritarians wishing for a scapegoat. It is the duty of every American to acknowledge crises without hate, we are not a people of repression and hate. Immigration must be handled in a reasonable, compassionate way before we can ever hope to normalize our relationship with our southern brother.

It is undeniable that a soft border is unrealistic, but we must not use this fact to reject American morality, and exceptions must be made due to the humanitarian crises that affect many south of the border, but we must not compromise ourselves. A balance between security and empathy must be struck or the crisis will never be solved, and our southern border will go from a currently collapsing concept to a complete and total battlefield.

Instituting a policy of verified entry for those clearly fleeing violence, economic collapse, and ruined lives must be instituted. America is seen as a promised land for those fleeing hardship and violence, the dream is seen as something to strive for, for those outside of America. It is our duty to accept and grow our nation evermore and prove we are truly the greatest nation on the face of the earth.

Illegal immigrants, while having inherently violated the law, must be handled on a case-by-case basis, and with the same dignity and morality as anyone else wishing to enter the country. We must give all who are here the same due process as anyone else, no matter their status. Anyone who participates in

American systems and institutions, no matter their status, are Americans, citizen or not. Those with families, working jobs, and providing services to their communities, growing the economy, shall be granted amnesty and be set on the path towards citizenship after a post-entry documentation period. Those found, after given their day in court, to provide nothing, be a part of criminal organizations, or leech off of American institutions shall be returned to their country of origin.

The current administration's explicit authoritarian shift by ignoring court orders and deporting immigrants, no matter their status, to a foreign prison is an aberrant betrayal of not only American values of due process, but the Constitution itself. Having a strong stance on the border and immigration does not mean ignoring the law and traditional policies on immigration, of which the current policy is not.

For the past century, Mexico has postured and perceived itself as the brotherly republic to America, as it correctly and rightfully is. Mexico has consistently and earnestly supported America, be it the Zimmermann Telegram or World War II. The current American position of adversity is a complete and ultimate betrayal of not only a continental partner, but foundational brother to America. We must remedy our failings with Mexico, restore trust, and tackle the issues we have at the border and move forward together as intended.

## **Canadian Relations**

Much like Mexico, Canada has continued as a brotherly democracy to America. Distinct from us, but unified in goals and beliefs. Threats of annexation and war only damage our position, not just on the continent but internationally. The toxicity of American politics has bled over into our neighbors undeniably, who we elect to our highest offices has had an impact not just in America, but regionally. We must remedy and repair our relations with Canada before seeking any change on the broader international stage.

While free trade is an admirable initiative, closer economic ties while protecting the domestic interests of both nations is necessary. Meaning free, unrestricted trade is ultimately impossible without a well-thought-out common market between the two, and possibly even Mexico. This would require a common currency or firmly fixed exchange rates between the countries, as well as slow and gradual price equalization between the nations. We must prevent the issue of outsourcing to achieve a truly equal and mutually productive trade agreement between us and our neighbors. The

natural industries of each nation are unique to them, and allowing for them to be ripped away due to the promise of cheaper labor is ultimately damaging to all three.

Canadian independence must be guaranteed by America, not just from foreign threats, but from America itself. While we share a common North American identity with Canada, Canadians are a distinct civic people and civic nation to America, and deserve the same dignity and respect as Americans in that regard. The aggressive expansionist policy taken by the authoritarians, in stark contrast to the cooperation that has been fostered in the previous decades, has done significant damage to the American international standing, not just on the continent but globally.

We must work to rekindle the flame of brotherhood with Canada. If we do not, we will have a permanent threat on our border, but be a permanent threat on the continent. The days of the American empire are gone, we have gone from imperialists to isolationists to world police. We must decide on what we are before continuing to act as an erratic world cop.

## Chapter Five: Military Policy and General Foreign Relations

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America is the sole world military superpower. This not only gives us immense sway over the world, but lands a great responsibility on our shoulders. We, as the sole world superpower, must ensure world peace, not as an imperialist force, but as one of cooperative handling of crises on a case by case basis. We can not afford militarily, diplomatically, or economically to continue our policy of direct world policing.

### American Militarism

It is an undeniable fact that America possesses the most potent military force in the history of mankind. As such, we have a responsibility to use that military force responsibly, in a Teddy Rooseveltian style. We must not allow ourselves to be pushovers, but we must not allow ourselves to become a globe-spanning military-industrial tyrant. America must posture itself as the calm, reasonable mediator between international and regional disputes. This doesn't mean troops on the ground and weapons in the hands of militants, but calm and calculated responses to events at hand.

The issue of military spending is multifaceted. We spend too much, and too little goes to where it was intended. We spend too much on foreign nations for little or negative gain, and we fund terrorists and future adversaries regularly. We must cease sending money to foreign nations for military spending outside of a clear moral obligation for international peace. We must cease military aid to failing states that only use our aid for repressive policies. The only acceptable use of money and weapons is to counter aggressive expansionism and threats to the global order.

The military must be regularly audited to ensure spending is used appropriately and goes directly towards what was intended. The cause of military spending bloat is the loss of track of where the money goes, too many cases of insufficiently supplied bases, outdated equipment, and failing standards exist to warrant the current price tag on defense spending. While a strong defense is mandatory for America in the modern day, we must reform and consider if where our money goes is truly in the interest of the nation as a whole, or in the interest of foreign nations or embezzlers.



If we are to stay at the top, we must introspect as to how and why we are here. What is the purpose of an American superpower? What will we do to better the world, not just for ourselves but for humanity? As the sole military superpower, we must decide as a nation what it means to be that superpower. We must use this position we have in the world to benefit not only the nation but the world, prevent the sins of the world's past, and push for a closer world order of aligned nations for the betterment of humanity. American militarism ought to reflect this worldview, or America does not deserve its position at the top.

## **Redefining America on the World Stage**

The current state of American perception internationally is a direct result of America's internal degradation and authoritarian backsliding. America is now more isolated than ever, despite being a military superpower. We have become the very existential threat we sought to prevent rising. Our alliances are fracturing over authoritarian threats and demands of expansion for 'national security' reasons, we make these demands of our own allies. The current regime has proven to be the real national security risk, shattering our alliances and position on the world stage at the direct benefit of our largest adversary.

We must take back our position, not through aggression but reconciliation and renegotiation. Due to the actions of our current regime we have lost faith and trust from our allies, and we must atone for those actions on the world stage. We must not allow our national pride to cloud our judgment of where we stand globally, we are the greatest nation in the world, we are the undeniable strength of the world, but America first does not mean America alone.

Reaffirming our currently fracturing alliances and ensuring our position internationally must be done sincerely and earnestly. We can no longer afford aggressive posturing toward our international partners, the pen is mightier than the sword, this is an undeniable fact. Violence is only an option when all alternatives have been exhausted. We must not use our potent military as a force of imperialism like we once had, the world has evolved past that. If America stands on the pillars it was founded on, freedom, liberty, and expression, then how can we continue to act as a force of international repression and threat? It is un-American how the regime is conducting itself



internationally.

We are a proud nation, but pride does not mean arrogance. Yes, America is unrivaled in military strength, but it does not mean we do not need allies, or that we can slink back into isolationism so willingly. We took an oath to defend our allies from attack, to support the free world from incursion. We are the leaders of that free world, returning to isolation or worse, imperialism, is the ultimate betrayal of our duty to the world and ourselves. Presence does not mean entanglements, nor does it mean boots on the ground or money sent to every conflict. It means standing ready to face threats and challenges to democratic ideals, what America was founded on.